

BEFORE THE STATE COMMITTEE

Speaking before the Nebraska democratic state committee recently, Mr. Bryan said:

Gentlemen: I do not know that I have anything to say except that I

am always glad to meet with the democrats of Nebraska. During the last twelve years the democrats of Nebraska have been attending political conventions and apparently enjoying them. (Laughter and applause.) I was very glad to have

so many of our democrats attend the convention at Denver, and I was glad to hear from the bulletins that they were taking a more or less active part in what went on there. The campaign is not opened yet, and I have really not been notified of my nomination, but so many intimations have been given to me of the surprise that is in store, that it won't be as sudden as it might, when it comes. (Laughter.) The reports that we get from the country are very encouraging, and one of them, I think, especially deserves notice. The promptness with which our democratic papers are taking up the subject of subscriptions to the campaign fund is very encouraging. Several have already opened subscriptions, and I believe that it is going to be quite generally followed. This is probably a response to the party's position in regard to publicity concerning campaign contributions (applause), and it verifies the hopes of those who believed that if the party threw itself upon the confidence of the masses of the people, if the party announced its determination to rely for its sinews of war upon contributions, the voters will have an interest in the government that they have not had heretofore. (Applause.) I think it is an earnest of what is to come. I think it is an auspicious beginning of this new era in politics, and I hope that this committee will urge the papers of Nebraska that are supporting the ticket to join in this movement. I believe that every democratic paper should make itself a collecting agency, and when you remember that we have several thousand of these papers in the country, you will understand what a considerable sum can be realized when they all begin work and when the readers of these papers have this subject presented to them through earnest editorials.

That is all I care to say at this time, gentlemen. The issues have been presented in the platform and I have been getting letters from all parts of the country expressing approval of that platform. I believe that it is the best platform that this country has known for generations, that it specifically sets forth the party's position. There is no trimming; there is no hedging; there is no dodging; it is a frank, candid, platform, and the impression that it has made is a most favorable one. And the republicans are already in retreat on one subject. They turned down the plank in regard to publicity of campaign contributions; they turned it down in their convention by an overwhelming majority, and as soon as the democratic party acted, they felt it necessary to act. They had about three weeks after that convention in which to act, but they did not do anything until the democratic convention acted, and then we heard it announced that they were going to publish the statement—after the election (laughter and applause), and the first intimation was that they would get contributions wherever they could, and tell about them after election; and after the democratic national committee acted and put that platform pledge in effect, the republican candidate announced that they would receive no contributions from corporations. They have been moving very rapidly thus far, and I am not prepared to tell you what they may do next. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, this is an auspicious beginning, and I am glad that you are assembled here to prepare for the work. We are expecting to have Nebraska in the democratic column this year. (Great applause.)

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